



OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Director's Annual Report 2006-07



a Catholic learning community

Our Catholic schools are dedicated to the education of the whole child — mind, body and soul. Academic excellence is only the beginning of what students can achieve in our schools. A fundamental part of our faith as Catholic educators is recognizing each person's unique gifts. Beyond academics, we provide a rich and diverse offering of opportunities that enable our students to excel in their own way, whether through the Arts, athletics, or skilled trades.

Catholic education is rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which promotes discipleship, community, the dignity of persons and social justice. Gospel values are integrated into every aspect of the Catholic school curriculum and life of the school.

Our Board's goals for the 2006-07 school year were to strengthen the faith life of our staff and students, improve academic outcomes, increase the graduation rate for secondary school students, and strengthen parent engagement in the educational partnership. Our main strategy in the pursuit of these goals was to place our emphasis on school-based efforts and job-embedded learning for our staff. Professional learning communities enable staff to support one another in developing teaching strategies, while fostering a school environment in which responsibility for student achievement is shared by all.

Our Catholic schools are supported by a significant and vital infrastructure of Catholic organizations representing educators, clergy and parents. Our Board is an active member of the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association, which supports the promotion and protection of Catholic schools in Ontario. As we celebrate the achievements of our students and staff, we also give thanks for the gift of Catholic education.

Theresa Harris

Director of Education & Secretary



As a Catholic learning community, supporting each other in our faith journey, we provide academic excellence within a safe, Christ-centred environment while enabling all individuals to become life-long learners who make a positive contribution to society. We have 32 elementary schools (including one French Immersion school) and three secondary schools in Brantford, Brant County, Haldimand County and Norfolk County.



Building foundations for character education

Forum on Catholic Education

Over 300 Catholic school supporters met on April 16 to discuss the value and future of Catholic education in Ontario. “We want our children to be able to express their religious values openly. Catholic education offers a connection between the three most important parts of a child’s life — home, school and church,” said one school council member in attendance.

In support of the province’s new character education initiative, the theme of the forum was “Developing Character in Our Catholic Schools.” The group was quick to point out the differences between the Ministry’s program and the teachings of Catholic education. One secondary school student said, “The difference between the government initiative and our system is that the initiative is not founded in spirituality.”

The distinctiveness of Catholic schools was another major theme. One teacher noted that Catholic education “brings

us back to a sense of the sacred in an ever-changing world.” However, many in attendance felt that the Catholic school system needs to do a better job of describing that distinctiveness to the public. The group agreed that the essence of a Catholic school is the presence of faith throughout the curriculum and the connection of values to religious teachings. “We need to get the message out about what Catholic schools contribute to society,” said one student.

Over one third of Ontario parents send their children to Catholic schools, a tradition that extends over 160 years. Parents, students, teachers, principals, priests and community members were represented at the forum, which was held at Assumption College School in Brantford. The local forum was part of a province-wide initiative of the Institute for Catholic Education and the Ontario Catholic School Trustees’ Association.

supporting each other in our faith journey

Catholic Education Week

Created in the Image of God

The first week of May was a time to celebrate the gift of Catholic education in our communities. The theme of the 2007 Catholic Education Week was “Created in the Image of God” reflecting our commitment to help students appreciate that we are all created in God’s image.

Five sub-themes helped students understand the rich meaning of this theme — we are created sacred, essentially good, uniquely gifted, alive in the Spirit, and for one another. Special activities for each of those sub-themes were developed for elementary and secondary students by the Ontario Catholic School Trustees’ Association (OCSTA). More information about Catholic Education Week is available on the OCSTA website (www.ocsta.on.ca).

Nurturing our own faith

Faith ambassadors support teachers and staff in personal faith journeys

Faith ambassadors are staff members who have accepted a call to help nurture the faith community for their fellow teachers and support staff. In every school in our board, faith ambassadors are involved with coordinating many activities to help enhance the faith life of the adults in their schools. These activities include mass and prayer planning, faith sharing groups and sending daily scripture readings to staff members.

In February, faith ambassadors worked with their principals to develop a school program for the board-wide staff Faith Day. School staff listened to inspiring speakers and celebrated the Eucharist together.

The faith ambassadors came together as a large group at the Catholic Education Centre to learn about the prayer labyrinth,

in a presentation by Lori Ann Pacenti, chaplain of St. Jean de Brébeuf High School in Hamilton. Faith ambassadors then had an opportunity to spend some time in prayer using the beautiful cloth labyrinth that Pacenti had spread out across the entire boardroom floor.

In April, the faith ambassadors took on the task of facilitating over 300 people who gathered to discuss the future of Catholic education at the board forum “Developing Character in our Catholic Schools.”

In June, the ambassadors met for an evening at the Catholic Education Centre to share a meal, celebrate the Eucharist and discuss a vision for the future, including the development of a faith ambassador programme for students.

Focus on the classroom and instructional strategies

Literacy and numeracy achievements

Through professional learning teams, staff master new teaching strategies and then return to their schools to share the learnings with their colleagues. This collaborative model is successful because it encourages staff to draw on the knowledge and experience of one another.

Teachers continue to develop their literacy instructional strategies, which include shared reading and using the Developmental Reading Assessment to plan instruction. Numeracy development includes instructional strategies related to fractions and ratio and using manipulatives in the classroom.

A special emphasis was placed on writing skills. In November, teachers participated in a professional activity day that focused on teaching approaches and strategies that teachers can use to inspire and challenge their students in their writing assignments.

Literacy coaches attended workshops on modeling and training components of balanced literacy. Coaches then returned to



schools and assist teachers in the classroom with their literacy instruction and use of new teaching approaches.

A series of workshops focusing on differentiated instruction were delivered to special education teachers. A book study approach was used to explore

Gayle Gregory's book, *Differentiated Instructional Strategies - One Size Doesn't Fit All*.

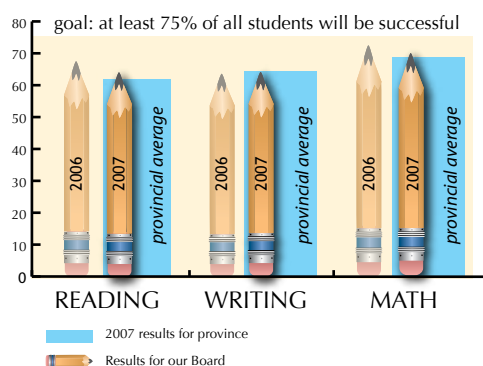
Additional workshops for special education teachers focused on the Developmental Reading Assessment, guided reading and balanced literacy.

we provide academic excellence



Minister of Education Kathleen Wynne, MPP Dave Levac and Director of Education Theresa Harris tour Our Lady of Providence School in Brantford.

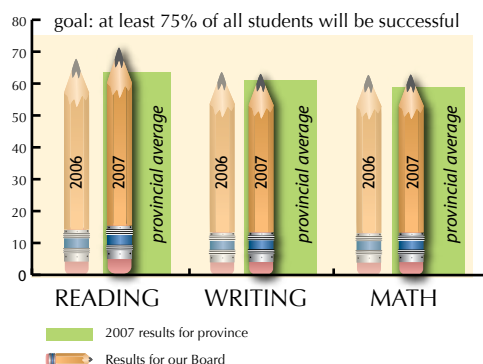
Primary EQAO Results



Success on Grade 10 Literacy Test

Grade 10 students achieved an 87% success rate on the most recent Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). Data for the past three years show that overall success rates for the OSSLT has been maintained near this level. Test results are useful for literacy program planning and to help identify students who would benefit from the additional resources that are available in every secondary school.

Junior EQAO Results



Grade 9 EQAO Math Scores

Of all the students studying mathematics at the academic level, 68% met or exceeded provincial standards. Scores for students in the applied mathematics program climbed by seven percentage points, with an overall success rate of 49% throughout the Board. Teachers will continue to develop new approaches to explore content and understanding of mathematical concepts in Grades 7, 8 and 9.

Spotlight on parent engagement

Parents organize an evening with Barbara Coloroso

Over 200 parents, educators and community members were in attendance at the Delhi Belgian Hall on May 25 to hear Barbara Coloroso's insights on how teaching children how to care deeply, share generously and help willingly, can prevent bullying and end the cycle of violence.

The internationally-recognized speaker and author encouraged parents to teach their children to share and not to avoid conflicts. "Today's parents buy more than one of something to avoid conflicts between children instead of teaching children strategies for sharing." She emphasized, "We need to teach children *how* to think, not *what* to think."

Parent volunteers representing three Catholic elementary schools worked together to plan the event that brought Coloroso to the community. Free tickets were provided to local parent support organizations. The event was funded by a *Parents Reaching Out* grant from the Ministry of Education.



Laura Beneff, vice-chair of the Our Lady of Fatima (Courtland) Parent Interest Group; Atala Andratis, chair of the St. Frances Cabrini School Council; Barbara Coloroso; and Edith Heleniak, chair of the Our Lady of LaSalette School Council.

a safe, Christ-centred environment

Character education and Catholic schools

Faith formation — beyond “being a good person”

Catholic schools are welcoming communities that respect and celebrate the uniqueness of all persons. In partnership with families, parishes and communities, Catholic schools integrate the teachings of Jesus Christ in all aspects of school life. In the classroom, on the playground and throughout the day, Catholic students live and grow in their faith.

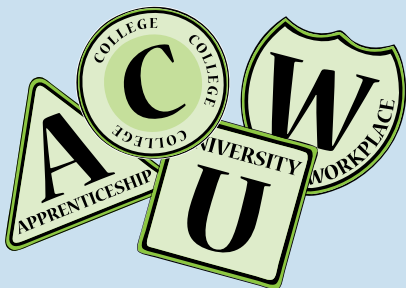
A Catholic school is more than just an extra class in religion. It is more than “character education”. The difference is that the values children learn are from the teachings of Jesus. Each student becomes, for the world, the light of Christ.

Through charitable and community initiatives, students are given many opportunities to develop a commitment to serve. By nurturing this spirit of service and by bringing the curriculum to life, educators help each student explore their full spiritual and academic potential.





A program pathway is the combination of the courses that make up a student's educational program and the supports provided in offering that program. It's designed to lead a student to a particular destination and should reflect their own goals. A program pathway is considered successful if the student makes a smooth transition to their next stage of life, whether it's apprenticeship, college, university or the workplace.



Student Success Initiative

Improving secondary student outcomes and creating more choices for students are the main objectives of the Board's Student Success initiative. Four focus areas for 2006-07 resulted in positive outcomes:

#1: Greater success in Grades 9 and 10

By helping new Grade 9 students make a smooth transition into high school, creating school-based Student Success Teams and through programs such as Credit Recovery and Homework Club, the credit accumulation rate for students in Grades 9 and 10 is 82% — that's 14 points above the provincial average!

#2: Graduation rates increasing

Professional development with a focus on the classroom has provided strategies for teachers to help students achieve success. Our early leaver rate has dropped, with more students earning a diploma.

#3: Success in core subject areas

School-based committees focus on cross-curricular literacy strategies and the explicit teaching of skills to address student needs. Our math teachers collaborated with two other school boards to create new approaches to helping students explore mathematics content and understand concepts. These initiatives have resulted in improvement in core math and English classes for secondary students.

#4: More choices offered to students

We've increased the ways that students can participate in experiential learning. Dual-credit programs allow students to earn college credits while completing their high school diploma requirements, with some time spent in the college environment. More students are choosing co-operative education as a way to gain work experience.

enabling all to become life-long learners

Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence



St. John's College students have the chance to help their community — and communities around the world — thanks to humanitarian projects initiated by their principal, Dr. Dina Dalia.

As one of only 15 recipients from across Ontario of the Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence, Dr. Dalia was recognized for helping students develop their own potential and discover an enthusiasm for learning that will last a lifetime. She was recognized as a champion of exercises to develop a common vision and improve the culture of schools in our Board. She supports and encourages staff and student development by providing programs that foster a passion for life-long learning.

Special education enables success for all

Through special education programs and supports, exceptional learners are given every opportunity to reach their full potential. Strategies such as high expectations, mentorship, curricular relevance, precise/effective teaching and the use of data to inform practice continue to produce results for all students.

As leaders in the field of special education, a team of special education staff researched and developed four interactive training opportunities in partnership with the Hospital for Sick Children and TV Ontario on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

During the 2006-07 school year, additional funding allowed for the continuation of an assistive technology consultant and the hiring of an additional (0.5) system special education resource teacher to support the occupational therapy needs of our students. As well, a behaviour therapist and a social worker were added to the complement of support staff.

Champion of Inclusion



The local chapter of the Coaching to Inclusion committee has presented a Champion of Inclusion award to Grade 7 teacher Andrea Risi. The St. Patrick's (Caledonia) teacher was recognized for creating a classroom environment that is inviting to all students. She models unconditional acceptance and inclusion for every student and acknowledges the gifts that each student has to offer. Beyond her own classroom, she has also invited professionals into the school to educate staff and students about specific exceptionalities.



“Green School” national award

St. Frances Cabrini School in Delhi has received national recognition for its earth-friendly efforts. The SEEDS Foundation recognizes school activities like hallway displays, school yard plantings, litter pick-up, recycling and reusing common objects to make bird feeders, through its national Green Schools program. At the Earth Day assembly in April, the school was officially recognized as an environmental Green School by the SEEDS Green Team. In order to qualify for the designation, elementary schools must complete a minimum of 100 environmental projects. The award adds the Delhi Catholic school to a list of over 8,000 elementary schools across Canada.

Raising funds for cancer services and research

12-hour Relay for Life

Students and staff at Assumption College School raised the bar on what “school spirit” really means, as they hosted another Canadian Cancer Society Relay for Life in May, 2007. Their efforts demonstrate to people living with cancer in the community that they are not alone in their fight against the disease. The event collected \$61,540 in donations and had the third highest number of participants and attending survivors in the province. Since 2002, Assumption College School students have raised over \$250,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society.

The Canadian Cancer Society Relay for Life is a 12-hour, overnight, non-competitive event that involves teams of ten people who take turns walking or running around a track. The event opens with the Survivors’ Victory Lap, a “once around the track” for people who have survived cancer. At dusk, a luminary ceremony takes place, allowing people to honour others who have been touched by cancer by lighting candles that are placed around the track.

Donations are used to fund vital research into all types of cancer, to provide up-to-date and extensive information on cancer, risk reduction and treatment, and to offer a number of support services for people living with cancer, such as transportation to and from medical appointments.

make a positive contribution to society

Being the Body of Christ

Outreach at home and overseas

As Catholic educators, an essential aspect of nurturing our students’ faith formation is achieved through community outreach. Each child learns to be the Body of Christ by relieving the suffering of others.

In schools, this might take the form of making donations to local food banks, visiting homes for the aged, raising funds for international aid organizations, or participating in mission trips to help re-build communities affected by natural disasters. Participating in community outreach helps students to understand their responsibility to care for one another and for the earth.

Board-wide outreach initiatives include the *Operation Christmas Child* shoebox initiative, as well as the *Hands for Heaven* program that collects salt, soap, pasta, and sugar for the aid organization, Canadian Food for Children. These goods are shipped to countries in the Caribbean, South and Central America and Africa.

Last year, our board had a surplus of computers that had been replaced by newer technology. Over 800 computers were sent to Africa, where they have been put to good use in hospitals in Uganda. Shipping costs for the donated computers were covered under an international outreach program through St. Joe’s Health Care, and coordinated by the Sisters of St. Joseph (Hamilton).

Outreach program receives Michael Carty Award

Patches from Heaven

Ten years ago, Grade 6 teacher James Durka found a way for his students to reach out to the community in a very meaningful and tangible way. He asked his wife to teach the class how to knit simple squares that could be stitched together creating blankets for those in need. The program has gained momentum, with friends and relatives of the St. Patrick’s (Caledonia) students donating yarn and helping to knit 100 of the colourful warm blankets last year.

In 2007, the “Patches from Heaven” project was the recipient of the Catholic Education Foundation of Ontario’s Michael Carty Award. The award recognizes projects that enhance and support the mission of Catholic schools to nurture the spiritual development of our students and to teach their responsibilities as Christians.



Teachers learn new ways to use the arts and physical activity in the classroom

Educating the minds, bodies and souls of our students



The professional activity day in April focused on the whole child — mind, body and soul. Teachers participated in a full day of workshops that focused on music, visual arts, drama, spiritual/emotional well-being and physical well-being. More than 30 workshops were offered to teachers interested in learning new ways to go beyond the academic program in the classroom.

Catholic education seeks to nurture all aspects of a child's developmental growth, and doing so can also have a positive effect on academic progress. Through creative expression and movement,

students learn on a level that goes beyond the cognitive; the spirit and body are engaged as well.

As many teachers have little experience with music, drama or visual art, the workshops were gratefully received by those who were keen to enliven their classrooms through the Arts, but didn't know where to begin. The hands-on, interactive approach allowed them to experience the connection between academics and the Arts in a direct way. Sessions such as *Linking Drama and Dance to the Rest of Your Program* and *You Expect Me to Teach Music?* helped teachers build their skills and confidence.

As Catholic educators, the spiritual and emotional life of our students is paramount. Several workshops offered ways to nurture the faith life of students from Kindergarten through secondary school, including one called *Faithbooking*, where teachers develop scrapbooks as a record of each student's faith journey.

Recently, the board implemented Daily Physical Activity (DPA) as a way of helping students stay healthy through being active every day. We have provided schools with DPA resources and many teachers attended the physical well-being workshops that showed ways to keep children moving throughout the day.

we nurture the whole child

Outstanding Achievements in Leadership and the Skilled Trades



Faye McGrattan and Rob Campbell

The Brant Skills Development Awards Committee honoured the staff and students involved in skilled trades and technology. Faye McGrattan from Assumption College School was this year's recipient of the Educator of the Year award. Hard work, dedication and enthusiasm were just a few of the words used to describe the efforts of this outstanding teacher.

Brantford students were nominated for their exceptional work and efforts during the school year. Our talented winners included Alvaro Alves, John Hammond, Alexander Havens, Violet Rudy, Kathy Banas, Jennifer Jensen, Alys Krusysse and Charlie Tugwell.



The second annual Celebration of the Arts took place at Brantford's Sanderson Centre during Catholic Education Week. The evening's theme, "Created in the Image of God" was reflected in the students' expression in music, theatre, dance and visual arts.

The special gifts and talents of staff and students were celebrated by the hundreds of parents and relatives who attended the sold-out event. The evening culminated in a board-wide choir of 88 students from Grades 7 to 12, representing every school in Brantford, Brant County, Norfolk County and Haldimand County.



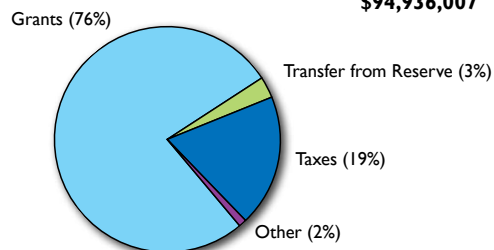
Students rehearse for the Celebration of the Arts at the Sanderson Centre in Brantford

Financial Summary

Changes to the Ministry of Education's grants for 2006-07 included recognition of the average salaries paid by school boards and the funding of school administration based on the number of schools rather than the number of pupils in a board. Funding announcements also included an increase in general operating grants for salaries in the amount of 2.5%, further assistance to cap primary class size at 20 pupils, increased preparation time to 180 minutes per week for elementary teachers, and funding for additional Student Success Teachers in secondary schools.

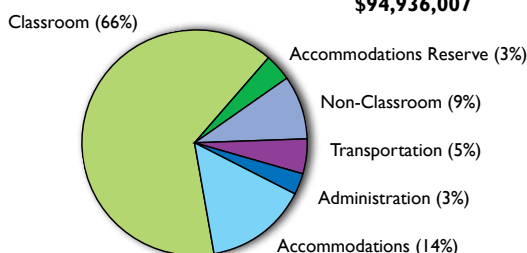
2006-07 Revenue

Grants	72,272,409
Transfer from Reserve	2,549,328
Taxes	18,314,213
Other	1,800,057
	\$94,936,007



2006-07 Expenditures

Classroom	62,786,479
Accommodations Reserve	2,645,049
Non-Classroom	8,760,515
Transportation	4,740,541
Administration	2,994,105
Accommodations	13,009,318
	\$94,936,007



Board Profile

Elementary Students	6,924
Secondary Students	3,691
Total Students	10,615*

*based on average daily enrolment

Teachers (excl. Special Education)	586
Special Education Teachers	56
Teacher Assistants	113
Classroom Support	53
School Administration	96
Administration and Governance	26
Pupil Transportation	2
School Operations	94
Total Board Employees (FTE)	1026

Student Trustees



Stephanie Polgar
2006-2007



Carolina Spagnuolo
2006-2007

2006-07 Board of Trustees



Joe McPherson
City of Brantford
Chair



June Szeman
City of Brantford
Vice-chair



Dennis Blake
Norfolk County



Cliff Casey
Norfolk County



Dan Dignard
County of Brant



Bonnie McKinnon
Haldimand County

A call to service and stewardship in Christ

Our Board is governed by six Catholic trustees who are elected by registered Catholic school supporters in our own municipalities. Catholic school board trustees are people of faith, with a vision of life that is centred in Jesus. They have a sense of being called to ministry, and they strive for quality academic programs steeped in gospel values and excellence. Their Christian attributes and skills foster respect for diverse opinions and promote good working relationships with others.

Our Catholic School Board strives to ensure that the goals of Catholic education are maintained as first priorities, never sacrificed

nor compromised. These goals are supported by appropriate human and material resources under the supervision of supervisory officers and administrative staff charged to manage the operations of the school system, to implement Board decisions and policies, and to provide trustees with their professional expertise and advice. Our Catholic trustees model servant leadership in their relationships with the partners in the Catholic educational community, valuing the input of parents, clergy, staff and students in their decision-making.

- adapted from the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association booklet: *A Call to Service and Stewardship in Christ*



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G. Wallace Easton
Associate Director,
Corporate Services & Treasurer

William Chopp
Superintendent of Education

Cathy Horgan
Superintendent of Education

Patricia Kings
Superintendent of Education

Norfolk County

Holy Trinity Catholic High School	519-429-3600
Our Lady of Fatima - Courtland	519-688-0049
Our Lady of La Salette - La Salette	519-582-0895
Sacred Heart - Langton	519-875-2556
St. Bernard of Clairvaux - Waterford	519-443-8607
St. Cecilia's - Port Dover	519-583-0231
St. Frances Cabrini - Delhi	519-582-2470
St. Joseph's - Simcoe	519-426-0820
St. Michael's - Walsh	519-426-5462

Haldimand County

Notre Dame - Caledonia	905-765-0649
St. Mary's - Hagersville	905-768-5151
St. Michael's - Dunnville	905-774-6052
St. Patrick's - Caledonia	905-765-4626
St. Stephen's - Cayuga	905-772-3863

Brant County

Blessed Sacrament - Burford	519-449-2984
Holy Family - Paris	519-442-5333
Sacred Heart - Paris	519-442-4443
St. Anthony Daniel - Scotland	519-446-2712
St. Theresa - Brantford	519-753-8953

Brantford

Assumption College School	519-751-2030
Christ the King	519-759-4211
Holy Cross	519-756-5032
Notre Dame	519-756-2288
Our Lady of Fatima	519-753-5283
Our Lady of Providence	519-758-5056
Resurrection	519-752-5900
St. Bernard	519-756-5751
St. Gabriel	519-756-4706
St. Jean de Brébeuf (French Immersion)	519-756-7100
St. John's College	519-759-2318
St. Leo	519-759-3314
St. Mary	519-753-0552
St. Patrick	519-759-0380
St. Peter - Brantford	519-752-1611
St. Pius X - Brantford	519-753-6422



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